



Chair Talk

Dear Fellow Circle Members,

The Circle Co-Chairs normally write a Summer letter in August, but we wanted to make sure to stay in touch during this time of limited social meeting. Physical distance doesn't have to mean isolation and we are constantly searching for ways to stay connected. We promised to be flexible and creative despite facing a pandemic, social unrest and growing uncertainty since March, so are writing you once again.

We believe that our Circle is one that has quickly adapted and responded to the changing needs, along with supporting the most vulnerable. We wanted to again thank our hard-working committee co-chairs and everyone for their participation on any level in our work to increase self-sufficiency among women in the Greater Baltimore area.

Our committees have been working hard realizing our mission and we wanted to share news about their work. Please feel free to contact the committee co-chairs any time with questions or to join a committee.

Communications Committee [EMAIL COMMITTEE CHAIRS HERE](#)

Since our last Chair Talk this committee is still "talking" to keep one informed. It held its second zoom, The Year Ahead in August. We were able to hear from 2 of our 2020 grantees, GEM and TurnAround. One can find a sampling of the presentation on our Facebook page. The committee has produced a Hint Sheet for using Zoom that can be found in our Circle Library webpage in the Key Reference Section.

Education Committee [EMAIL COMMITTEE CHAIRS HERE](#)

The committee held the Fall Full Circle Meeting in September via a webinar format dealing with Affordable Housing, moderated by Lawrence Lanahan, author of *The Lines Between Us with panelists* Matt Hill, Adria Crutchfield and Adriana Foster. Circle Study has had a program featuring Caryn York of the Job Opportunities Task Force. The Education Committee has also produced its own newsletter to keep its members updated.

Membership Committee [EMAIL COMMITTEE CHAIRS HERE](#)

Membership held a Prospective Member Event in September. The Baltimore Outreach Services made an impressive presentation about their adaptation to COVID. The committee is also planning another Circle Works project this Fall, so stay tuned to learn how you might help.

Post Grants Committee [EMAIL COMMITTEE CHAIRS HERE](#)

The 2020 review season has started with the liaisons determined earlier this year to stay in touch with our new grantees. One can check up on the grantees on our website under Current Grantees. Post Grants collected data from our 2019 grantees and summarized their work, presented in the most creative Zoom. We would like to thank Peggy Sparr, former Co-Chair as she completed the Post Grants season this Fall.

Grants Committee [EMAIL COMMITTEE CHAIRS HERE](#)

There is a new grant application created in our Foundant grants management system. It will allow grantees to apply for programmatic or general operational funding on separate applications. The committee has been busy contacting potential team leaders and grant readers.

Grantee Connect Committee [EMAIL COMMITTEE CHAIRS HERE](#)

This group has been extremely busy contacting the 154 grantees that have received funding from us since our inception 20 years ago. What a mammoth job! It will be presenting a program for the grantees in November concerning Outcomes with Sarah Hemminger, Thread CEO.

Racial Equity, Diversity, Inclusion

Really exciting news is the formation of a new, steering level committee call Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (REDI) dedicated to leading the Circle in its goal to center its work in racial equity. We recognize this is but a first step in what is likely to be a lengthy and complex endeavor. We are extremely fortunate to have this headed up by experienced members Vivian Manekin and Crickett Woloson.

Finally, according to Susan, our own Martha Cukor is a YouTube star! She was a panelist in a Philanos webinar on Sept. 8th called, "Together While Apart."

The coronavirus pandemic has certainly changed our lives, but it has also emphasized the importance of connecting with each other. We remain committed to our work and continue our efforts to have a positive impact in our community.

We look forward to being with you soon!

Susan & Martha

Susan Perl and Martha Cukor